

MEDAILLE COLLEGE
AGASSIZ CIRCLE
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

COURSE OUTLINE

Program: Humanities

Course Number: ENG 435

Course Title: Major Literary Figures: Robert Frost: His Poetry and His Major Contemporaries

Number of Credits: 3

Prerequisites: ENG 110 and one literature class at the 200 level

A. Catalog Description of Course:

An intensive study of the poetry of Robert Frost. Also included are representative works of selected major contemporaries of Frost from the Twentieth Century. A student may take LIT 450 more than once for credit under different literary figures.

B. Goals:

- _ To enrich students' cultural lives and their awareness of the scope/impact of Robert Frost.
- _ To acquaint the students with a major cross-section of Frost's poems and with a highly limited number of poems by other poets of the period.
- _ To encourage close reading of, and discussion about, Frost's literary texts.
- _ To explore the interrelationships between Frost and his poetry.
- _ To introduce students to some significant literary criticism of Frost's poetry.

C. Objectives:

Upon completion of the course students will be able to:

- _ Identify the major periods of Frost's literary works and relate them to the major historical, philosophical, political, and social elements which make up the context of those works.

- _ Recognize Frost's affinity with, and uniqueness from, his own literary period through a broad sampling of his major poems.
- _ Explicate and interpret Frost's poetry by applying standard techniques of poetic analysis.
- _ Apply significant literary criticism to selected works studied.

D. Outline of Course Content:

1. Introduction to backgrounds of the first sixty-five years of the Twentieth Century: historical, philosophical, political, social, and literary.
2. Introduction to various and valid literary approaches used in reading and appreciating poetry: structural, technical, practical/objective, psychological, thematic, phenomenological, historically traditional.
3. A thorough investigation of the varied techniques of sound quality, of figurative language, and of intellectual devices employed in Frost's poems: meter, accentual stress, pauses, free verse, rhyme, consonant and vowel verse texture; imagery, metaphor, symbol, personification; antithesis, wit, paradox, irony, understatement, allusion, narration, drama.
4. A detailed study of Frost's major poetic periods and the works within each period: early obscurity, British trip/early acceptance, American acceptance/growth, global recognition/growth, harvest time/glory.
5. Investigation of many of the signature traits that make Frost a recognizably special poet: conversational style, irony, dramatic settings and dialogue, tone of acceptance and resignation, quiet contemplative mood, pastoral/bucolic settings, philosophical undertones and dimensions, ambiguity, themes of mortality and isolation, well developed metaphors/images, wise and gentle understanding, laconic tone, individualism, mental awakenings: [in Frost's own words] a poem begins in delight and ends in wisdom.
6. An overview of two of the following contemporary poets with limited but representative selections from their works: e.e.cummings, T.S. Eliot, Ezra Pound, Robert Graves, Edward Thomas, Rupert Brooke, T.E. Hulme, Lascelles Abercrombie, Wallace Stevens, William Carlos Williams
7. A sampling of critical opinions about Frost and his poems: Frost's comments about his poetry, others' criticism.

E. Suggested Text(s):

Text of Robert Frost's complete works:

Lathem, Edward C., ed. *Poetry of Robert Frost: The Collected Poems, Complete and Unabridged*. New York: Henry Holt, 1979. [ISBN:0805005013]

Selected poems by Frost's contemporaries: handouts and/or library reserve copies.

F. Suggested Modes, Media, and Techniques of Instruction:

Lectures, discussion groups, guest lecturers, videos, films, recorded works, Internet research sites, Internet multimedia sites, collaborative group projects.

G. Instructor References:

Bagby, George F. *Frost and the Book of Nature*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1993.

Bellamy, Joseph D. *New Writers for the Eighties*. Fiction International, 1981.

Brower, Reuben Arthur. *The Poetry of Robert Frost: Constellations of Intention*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1963.

Burnshaw, Stanley. *Robert Frost Himself*. New York: G. Braziller, 1986.

Cady, Edwin H., and Louis J. Budd. *On Frost*. Best from American Literature Series. Durham: Duke University Press, 1991.

Carlsen, Robert, and Gilbert Niriham. *British and Western Literature*. 3rd ed. Themes & Writers Series. New York: McGraw Publishing, 1979.

Carter, Elliott. *Selections*. New York: Elektra Nonesuch, 1990. [1 sound disc : digital ; 4 _ in.]

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Ciffin, Robert P. Tristram. *New Poetry of New England: Frost and Robinson*. New York: Russell & Russell, 1938.

Cook, Reginald Lansing. *The Dimensions of Robert Frost*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1958.

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- Cox, Sidney. *A Swinger of Birches: A Portrait of Robert Frost*. New York: Holt. 1957.
- Cramer, Jeffrey S. *Robert Frost Among his Poems: A Literary Companion to the Poet's own Biographical Contexts and Associations*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1996.
- Currie, Gregory. *The Nature of Fiction*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1990.
- D'Avanzo, Mario L. *A Cloud of Other Poets: Robert Frost and the Romantics*. Lanham: University Press of America, 1991.
- Dubey, S. C. (Suresh Chandra). *The Poetry of Robert Frost*. Allahabad: Kitab Mahal, 1980.
- Duke, John. *Songs by John Duke*. Cambridge CRS 2776. (1979).
- Evans, William R., ed. *Robert Frost and Sidney Cox: Forty Years of Friendship*. Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1981.
- Francis, Lesley Lee. *The Frost Family's Adventure in Poetry*. Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1994.
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- Frost, Robert, et al. *Robert Frost, a Tribute to the Source*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1979.
- Gerber, Philip L. *Robert Frost*. Twayne's United States Authors Series: TUSAS 107. Boston: Twayne, 1982.
- , ed. *Critical Essays on Robert Frost*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1982.
- Gould, Jean. *Robert Frost: The Aim Was Song*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1964.
- Greiner, Donald J. *Robert Frost*. Chicago: American Library Association, 1974.
- Hadas, Rachel. *Robert Frost: Form, Cycle, Infinity: Landscape Imagery in the Poetry of Robert Frost and George Seferis*. Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 1985.

- Hall, Dorothy Judd. *Robert Frost: Contours of Belief*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1984.
- Holland, Norman Norwood. *The Brain of Robert Frost: A Cognitive Approach to Literature*. New York: Routledge, 1988.
- Kemp, John C. *Robert Frost and New England: The Poet as Regionalist*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1979.
- Kuzma Greg, ed. *Gone if Not Explained : Essays on Poems by Robert Frost*. Crete, Neb.: Best Cellar Press, 1976.
- Lentricchia, Frank. *Modernist Quartet*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1994.
- . *Robert Frost: Modern Poetics and the Landscapes of Self*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1975.
- , and Melissa C. *Robert Frost: A Bibliography, 1913-1974*. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1976.
- Lynen, John F. *The Pastoral Art of Robert Frost*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960.
- Marcus, Mordecai. *The Poems of Robert Frost: An Explication*. Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1991.
- Meyers, Jeffrey. *Robert Frost: A Biography*. New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.
- Monteiro, George. *Robert Frost & the New England Renaissance*. Lexington, Ky.: University Press of Kentucky, 1988.
- Newdick, Robert Spangler. *Season of Frost: An Interrupted Biography of Robert Frost*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1976.
- Nitchie, George Wilson. *Human Values in the Poetry of Robert Frost: A Study of a Poet's Convictions*. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1960.
- Oster, Judith. *Toward Robert Frost: The Reader and the Poet*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1991.

Patterson, Margaret, ed. *Author, Newsletters and Journals*. American, English & World Literature in English Information Guide Series 19. New York: Gale Research, 1979.

Poirier, Richard. *Robert Frost: The Work of Knowing*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Potter, James Lain. *Robert Frost Handbook*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1980.

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Robbins, J. Albert. *An Interlude with Robert Frost: Being a Brief Correspondence with the Poet*. Bloomington, Ind.: The Private Press of Frederic Brewer, 1982.

Rotella, Guy L. *Reading and Writing Nature: The Poetry of Robert Frost, Wallace Stevens, Marianne Moore, and Elizabeth Bishop*. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1991.

Sharma, T. R. S. *Robert Frost's Poetic Style*. Delhi: MacMillan, 1981.

Sokol, Barnett Jerome. *Robert Frost in England: His Poetry and Publications, 1912-1915*. Thesis--Columbia University, 1975.

Tharpe, Jac, ed. *Centennial Essays III*. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 1978.

Thompson, Lawrance. *Robert Frost: The Years of Triumph 1915-1938*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1970.

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Vail, Dennis. *Robert Frost's Imagery and the Poetic Consciousness*. Lubbock: Texas Tech University, 1976.

Van Egmond, Peter. *Robert Frost: A Reference Guide, 1974-1990*. Boston: G.K. Hall, 1991.

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Wakefield, Richard. *Robert Frost and The Opposing Lights of the Hour*. American University Studies: Series IV, English Language and Literature 16. New York: P. Lang, 1985.

Walsh, John Evangelist. *Into My Own: The English Years of Robert Frost, 1912-1915*. New York: Grove Press, 1988.

Wilcox, Earl J. *His "Incalculable" Influence on Others : Essays on Robert Frost in Our Time*. ELS Monograph Series 63. Victoria: University of Victoria, 1994.